

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A marked-up version of the claims that will be pending following entry of the present amendments showing the amendments made herein follows. Matter that has been deleted from the claims is indicated by strikethrough and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

Please cancel Claims 1-17, 20-30, and 34-36, without prejudice.

31. (Original) A method of sparing tissue levels of α_1 -antitrypsin in an animal, comprising administering an effective dose of a nitric oxide synthase inhibitor.
32. (Original) The method of claim 31, in which the animal is a human.
33. (Original) The method of claim 31, in which the nitric oxide synthase inhibitor comprises: N^G -nitro-L-arginine methyl ester, N^G -nitro-L-arginine, N^G -methyl-L-arginine, N,N'-dimethylarginine, N^G -monoethyl-L-arginine acetate, N^G -monomethyl-L-arginine acetate, N^G -monomethyl-D-arginine, N^G -monomethyl-L-homoarginine acetate, N^G -nitro-D-arginine, N^G -nitro-D-arginine methyl ester hydrochloride, ω -nitro-L-arginine, L- N^6 -(1-iminoethyl)lysine, aminoguanidine, S-methylisothiurea sulfate, S-ethylisothiurea sulfate, S-aminoethylisothiurea sulfate, mercaptoethylguanidine, 2,4-diamino-6-hydroxypyrimidine, diphenyleneiodonium chloride, 2-ethyl-2-thiopseudourea hydrobromide, 2-iminobiotin, L- N^5 -(1-iminoethyl)ornithine hydrochloride, S-methyl-L-thiocitrulline dihydrochloride, *p*-nitroblue tetrazolium chloride, 3-bromo-7-nitroindazole, pentamidine isethionate, 1-pyrrolidinecarbodithioic acid, spermidine, spermine, spermine-NO, 3-morpholinosydonimine-N-ethyl-carbamide, L-thiocitrulline, troleandomycin, 7-nitroindazole, hemoglobin, myoglobin, cytochrome V, S-nitroso-N-acetylpenicillamine S-nitrosoglutathione, or nitroglycerine, or pharmaceutically acceptable free bases thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.